to take appropriate steps consulting the State Government for a proposal which could figure in the Plan Document to save this city.

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of West Bengal For Completion of Sunderbans Delta Project Phase II

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): The Central Government was kind enough to consider the proposal regarding Sundarbans Delta Project-Phase-II submitted by the State Government of West Bengal sometime back. About 3400 k.m. embankment of Sunderbans river is vulnerable to high time flood and all other calamities. The Sunderbans though renowned for its flora and fauna and unique bio-diversity, does not have any industry and the poor people of the area live only on the catching of fish and cutting of wood. This Project was a part of the Ganga Flood Control. The West Bengal Government, as you know, Sir, is suffering from acute financial crunch and thus unable to proceed with the project, which is causing utmost distress to the people of this area. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 225.39 crore. I wonder whether any provision for this project has been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan or not. Sir, it is high time that the Central Government comes to the rescue of the poor Sunderbans inhabitants and save them from the vagaries of the Sunderbans river and render necessary financial help to the West Bengal Government to go ahead with this project.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker. Sir, yesterday an explosion took place in Satara district of Maharashtra. 58 persons died and 22 persons injured in the incident. We would like to seek information from the Union Government that today R.D.X. is being smuggled into the country at large scale. R.D.X. has been recovered from Gujarat. Hon. Home Minister is here in the House, A.K. 47 and other weapons are being smuggled into the country. Weapons have been dropped in West Bengal. He may tell from where the weapons are coming from ? How many weapons have been recovered and still being smuggled into the country? I.S.I. wants to create turbulence. Earlier, myself alongwith Our hon. leader Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar had raised this issue. The fact has come into light in Mumbai. A photo has been published along with the caption 'A plot to assassinate Bal Thakarey unearthed' in a newspaper. One person named Salafi, who has entered into Maharashtra through I.S.I. has been arrested in Maharashtra. He had come to Maharashtra with an intention to blow 'Matushi', the house of Bal Thakarey Sahab near our office "Saamna". Explosion occured in Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh. He was involved in these incidents also. We would like to ask the Government if they would inform us about the increase in the ISI activities ? Today people are trying to kill Bala Sahab Thakarey. We would like to have a statement in this regard from the Government. We had raised this issue the other day also but Home Minister was not present here at that time. Today, he is here in this House. Through You, I request him to give a statement in this regard....(interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. Since this was a serious matter, I allowed it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have to start the general discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, you cannot get response every time in the Zero Hour. Without notice how do you expect the Minister to reply ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Government had said that the statement would be issued. Then why statement is not being issued...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State problem.

[English]

This is a matter, law and order, relating to the State Government and the State Government will look into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you today. You cannot go on violating the procedure of the House everyday. have given the floor to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

GENERAL BUDGET—1997-98—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

12.22 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance Minister of India, Shri Palani Appan Chidambaram had presented his budgets on 28th February. It is 14th March today. Just two weeks have passed by yet the change in the fiscal atmosphere is discernable. I recall the carnival like evening of February 28th when the people were given to understand that this budget had cleared off the cloudy sky to give them a peep into the Starry future ahead. This unelouded budgetary luster seemed to indicate that the country had emerged from the gloomy situation of economic crisis and the affluent future was waiting ahead. However, within 14 days this euphoria have fizzled out and the clouds cleared off by him seem to eclipse the stars again. Hon. Speaker Sir,